men;" and that the whole of the duty falls upon the two-sixths; "for the duty must be done," at least while these have the strength; but the very little time allowed them to rest or sleep, and the poor accommodation and worse food with which they are so often supplied, soon render them unable to perform their duty, and shipwrecks follow from the inability of the crew; *but the underwriters must pay.* This overworking of seamen is another cause of shipwreck, as it begets intemperance—because if men are over-wrought and treated like slaves during a voyage, they are the more likely to break the bounds set by their oppressors when they arrive at a port, and to run into all kinds of excess. How much better would it be, had our seamen better treatment, better accommodations, better provisions, a table round which they could sit, converse or read, or otherwise amuse themselves, and comfortable beds in which to repose when they *get* a "watch below." In many of our ships this is the case; but in the majority it is the contrary. This is a serious reflection on those whose duty it is to have it remedied. There is a disgusting heartlessness in consigning human beings to the tender mercies (!) of task masters for twenty hours of the day, and to dog-holes for the other four, regardless of their health or comfort, which creates much surprise in those who are not aware of what an absorbing principle the love of gain is. It has been observed that little sympathy exists between the employer and employed. That is very generally the fact. In many cases the owners do not trouble themselves about the matter. But I consider it a point which requires the interference of the government.—*Mercantile Register, July* 13.

THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 1859.

☞ Having shown in previous numbers that the theory of national extinctions, as a physical law or an historical fact, is simply an assumption, it must be borne in mind however that, in national as in individual life, every change in the condition of a people, every disturbance of the existing state, is fraught with loss of life, generally proportionate to the suddenness and extent of the change.

The Hawaiian Islands were estimated to contain 400,000 inhabitants at the time of their discovery in 1778, though we are inclined to think with Jarves, that "300,000 would be nearer the truth." In 1823, after the wars of the conquest—and they were bloody and unsparing—after the pestilence in 1804,* after the first terrible and unchecked ravages of drunkenness and syphilis—both of foreign extraction—the population was again estimated at 142,000, or one-half less in forty-four years. Since then a census was held in 1832, which gave 130,313, or 11,737 less in nine years; and another census in 1836 which gave 108,579, or 21,734 less in four years. In 1847 only a partial census was taken and the population was estimated at 80,000, or 28,000 less in eleven years. In 1849 a census was taken which gave 80,641; and in 1850 another census, thought to be more accurate, gave 84,165, notwithstanding that during both these years the native population had been decimated by the influenza and the measles and a great number of children succumbed to the whooping cough. In 1851 and in 1852 no census was taken and no estimate recorded. In 1853, the great year of the small pox, another census was taken which gave 73,137, or 11,028 less in three years; of which, however, it is estimated that the small pox took off 8,000 or more. Since 1853 no census has been taken and we can only approximate the present number of the population and its relative annual decrease.

In 1854 the Minister of Public Instruction reports an excess of deaths over births for the previous year of 58; a rather sudden and gratifying diminution of the previously yearly (supposed) average of about 2,000 deaths more than births. For the four following years, or 1855, '56, '57 and '58, the average excess of deaths over births was 284; but taking into consideration the very great disadvantages under which these mortality tables are got up by the Board of Education and the almost unavoidable preponderance of deaths over births as reported by the district school inspectors, there can be no doubt that the above average is susceptible of a great reduction, even if not of an entire reversal. It shows also that the fearful price of human life which almost invariably attends swift and thorough transitions from barbarism to civilization, has been paid, or nearly so, and that, if the nation is not actively increasing as yet, it has at least reached the minimum of decrease. It is not unreasonable then to suppose that, if no new epidemic supervenes, the next year's census will find very nearly the same population as that of 1853.

What little credit can be attached to the theories and calculations of the national extinctionists, with whom we are dealing, will be seen at a glance from the following fact. In 1850, our predecessor in the editorial chair—alarmed at the appalling figures of the national decrease, as exhibited by the census of 1849, (not less than 6,465 for that one year)—prepared a table forthwith, based on the excess of the deaths over the births of that very same year when the measles and the whooping cough scourged the country hardly less fatally than the small pox of '53, and showing most conclusively that the census of the then current year, in which he wrote, would give a population of 74,176; whereas when the census had been taken, it turned out 84,165! The same table showed, with equal exactness, that in 1853 the census would show 52,761 inhabitants, whereas it turned out to be 73,137, and this although the small pox which raged that year, did not enter into the prescient calculations of the compiler of the table. In this year, A. D. 1859, according to said computation, the Hawaiian people would have been reduced to 35,024; in 1874 they would have melted down to 10,000, and in the year 1900 there would have been about 1,000 left, to be distributed, perhaps, as natural specimens of an extinct race among the scientific museums of the world.

With such a jumble of figures, such contradictory data and such extensive calculations on so small a foundation, it is easily perceived that no reliance can be placed in predictions which take no account whatever of the increasing well-being of a people, as well as their advancement in knowledge. The only landmarks standing out of this sea of figures are these, viz: that between the census of '36 and the census of '53, a period of seventeen years, the nation had decreased 25,442 over and above all accessions, or at the rate of 2,085 nearly per annum; and that between '53 and '59, a period of five years, the people had decreased 1,194, or at the rate of 239 per annum. Do these figures show an advancing or an ebbing tide of mortality? Most surely the latter.

As the Hawaiian people is not then in such a rapid course of extinction as many imagine who credulously, and we fear but too willingly, take one another's word for authority without investigating the matter themselves; as the progressively increasing ratio of decrease seems to have culminated in the small pox of 1853, since which time there has been no indication of a return to that fearful mortality of previous years which baffled statistical calculations and laughed remedial measures to scorn—there is just ground for believing that the Hawaiian nation has weathered the worst of the storm, has passed the desert and stands, panting and breathless it may be, but still stands "on the other side of Jordan."

But how is it, not only to make its footing good, but to enable itself to advance?

"Knowledge comes but wisdom lingers,"

Tennyson said, condensing the experience of ages in one short line. How seldom people anywhere, how little people here, have appreciated the truth of that sentence. How knowledge came—came like an inundation, though neither very choice nor very deep—but wisdom lingered on the shore, and the same people, which twenty-five years ago were represented as christianized and civilized, and as second to few, if to any, enlightened nations in the liberality of its laws and the mildness of its government, had not, until these last five years, a regular system of vaccination, nor until this very year a proper hospital for its own sick in general, and more especially for the relief of that nameless disease which probably has exacted more victims than war and pestilence together.

To those who never heard of the terrible prices which other nations paid for their civilization, even when it was less valuable than ours—what rivers of blood, national abasement and physical suffering it took to transmute the naked Gauls which poured like locusts over Italy, who feared nothing but "the sky falling" and who "returned the thunders of heaven with flights of arrows," into those civilized Gauls who gave Rome lessons in history, rivals in poetry, masters in rhetoric, senators, consuls and emperors in politics; yet the transition was spread over more than three hundred years: to those who know not what the Carlovingian civilization cost Saxony and the Germans, and the Saxon civilization cost the Vends; both sudden and bloody conversions to outward conformity; or what the Spanish civilization cost the Central and South American Indians, who lost their power, their language, their name, their nationality even, and became "hewers of wood and drawers of water" to the *puros*; and whose appalling depopulation from contact with civilization led to the slave trade as the least of the two evils, and who still, after more than three hundred years of bondage, saw their nationality and their race emerging on the surface—to those who never heard of this and others, or meet these facts with the ancient hypothesis of Shem, Ham and Japhet and its modern exegesis of a rampant Anglo-Saxon-dom, to such we know that we will carry no conviction by ever so many examples. Their pride forbids it, that pride through which the Angels fell.

From these dark shades of public desolation and private misery which found no heralds in their day, no census tables and no register offices to note the loss of human life, either from violent contact or that far deeper curse of mixing vices—from these let us look on this country and we shall find that, so far from having "paid too dear for its whistle," it has many and just grounds to be thankful for mercies and mitigations that never came to the aid of others.

☞ Borne on the wings of the last mail came the wailing sounds from the whaling ports on the Atlantic, expressive of loss and despondency. The fact is coming home to the hearths, if not to the hearts of the owners, that the business, which made the fortunes of the fathers, leaves no profit to the sons. The increased price of every article, the higher wages and lays, especially in the matter of captains and officers, the scarcity of whales and their increasing wildness, the continued low price of oil, the increased consumption of the Breckenridge patent coal gas, and the luxury of living, are operating with telling effect on the whaling business as now pursued from the great whaling ports of New England.

From New Bedford we learn that—

"Out of *fifty-one* whaling ships lying in New Bedford, according to the *Shipping List* of June 21st, only *nine* have captains shipped to them. This state of facts, in midsummer almost, looks squally enough. Some of the agents of the forty-two captainless crafts may succeed in getting them to sea this year. If anybody can do it they can. They have spunk in New Bedford, but that does not always turn the tide of ill-luck."

From Nantucket, the patriarch of the whaling ports, we are told:

"There seems to be no longer any room to hope that the whale fishery will ever again be extensively prosecuted from Nantucket. Year after year, it has declined, and now valuable ships belonging wholly, or in part to wealthy owners, lie idle at our wharves, because the result of new voyages seems doubtful. Such sale of ships or parts of ships as have been made, have been made at prices surprising low."—*Nantucket Mirror.*

And from New London, the patient and persevering rival of the other two, we read that—

"At the present time there is not a single whaler fitting in that port, and the reasons assigned are the low price of oil, and the unwillingness of capitalists to invest money in the enterprise. But the *Star* contends that the whaling business has made New London what she is, that money invested in the business has paid capitalists more than investments in railroads, steamboats and other stocks, especially in "Western securities," and advises a return to the old business with renewed energy. Abandon fitting at the Sandwich Islands, abolish the agencies there, bring the ships home to fit where our people can get the benefit, and the work can be completely supervised, the paper says, and the former prosperity of the place will be revived. The *Star* also says that New London must either do a good deal more or a good deal less whaling than she now does, and that it will be a sad day for the place when whaling is blotted out from that port, which it will soon be, if her people do not immediately invest some of their money in whaleships. Instead of owning 50 ships they can just as well have 150, and the only salvation of the business is to put a prop under it now."

While things look thus gloomy in the east, Job's comforter seated in the west and speaking through the San Francisco *Mercantile Gazette* of July 13th, throws out the consoling information that—

"It seems to us that the principal evils of which our Eastern friends complain in regard to the whaling business might be effectually remedied without resorting to the return trips suggested. We have time and again pointed out the facilities afforded by the port of San Francisco as a rendezvous for the whaling fleet of the Pacific, and we need not at this time more than refer to them."

Just so. We recommend our Eastern friends to remember the old proverb about "falling out of the frying pan into the fire," and we believe that they need no posting from us to appreciate the comparative value of Honolulu and San Francisco for whaling purposes.

That the whaling business is susceptible of great reformation and stricter economy there is no room for disputing; but to shove all, or the greater, or perhaps any but a very small portion of the blame of the present extravagent expenditures and profitless voyages on the captains of the ships or the agents abroad is far from probing the evil to the bottom, and is neither fair nor just to those whose fearless spirit and whose strong arms have built up those whaling cities in the past, and still maintain them in a luxury and splendor that the Coffins and the Howlands of 50 years ago never dreamt of.

Economy, like charity, begins at home, and, while the owners are groping for it in such far away places as this, we fear it will elude their grasp and mock at their lamentations.

*Footnote: *Of which the survivors give a description that will equal in vividness and horror that of the great plague in London. 300 corpses are said to have been carried out from Waikiki alone in one day.*

THE PAST WEEK.

The Royal Party.

We learn that their Majesties, the Prince Royal and their suites, after having visited Wailuku, Makawao and Haleakala and been received everywhere with an attention and warmth that must have been truly grateful to their Royal hearts, were expected to arrive at Lahaina to-day from the plantation of Mr. Jas. Makee in Ulapalakua, and that they would probably remain in Lahaina during next week, previous to going to Hawaii. Their Majesties and the Prince Royal are enjoying perfect health.

Property Taxation.

We call the attention of our readers to the "rules and regulations for the assessment of property," adopted by the Assessors for the district of Honolulu, and approved by the Minister of Finance, as printed in another column. We commend them as being explicit, clear and concise, and withal eminently equitable. To every new financial system objections will be raised, and are raised, by those who either do not take the trouble to inquire into its working, and who deliver themselves dogmatically in condemnation of a thing, simply because they do not know it; or else find some old practice, some cherished hobby of their own interfered with by the new system, and thankful for any opportunity to ventilate their lungs, cry out lustily against Government oppression and official tyranny. But we shall be sadly mistaken if this class of grumblers is not very scarce in our community. Exceptions there may be, but for years has property taxation been looked forward to as a principle to be enunciated, as an act of justice to be performed by this Government, and even those, on whom it will fall the heaviest have come to look upon it as a future means of raising the value of their property.

Believing that the three first sections explain themselves, we will remark upon the last, of "Personal Property," first, that it is only property *within this kingdom* that will be taxed, excepting always "vessels at home or abroad;" second, that personal property will always be "assessed to those *holding possession*" without reference to who or where the actual owner may be, thus simplifying the labor of the Assessors and not unnecessarily disclosing the business relations of the tax-payer.

It has been said by some, that "the value of a thing is what it will fetch at public auction." If this is commercially right—and we leave that to our "Commercial Reporter" to decide—yet it is fiscally wrong; or else all sorts of Peter Funk sales may be performed for the private purpose of publicly circumventing the Assessors and getting a property taxed on the basis of an imaginary sale. So thoroughly has this trick been exposed in the United States—where we believe property taxation is best understood—that in not a few of them, Connecticut for instance, the assessors are expressly prohibited from basing their valuation of a real estate upon the result of an auction sale.

We learn that the Assessors for Honolulu will open an office at the former auction room of Mr. A. P. Everett, foot of Nuuanu street, where the taxpayers of Honolulu will be invited to report themselves and their property. This is an improvement. The Assessors certainly should have a public recognized place of business, as much so as the Tax Collector, where information may be obtained and reclamations made.

"May you live a thousand years and your shadow never be less."

Passing along Queen Street yesterday about meridian, we heard the well-known hip, hip, hip and a tiger, of our friend Capt. T. Spencer, issuing from the door of Messrs. C. L. Richards & Co., and stepping in, found it was a little festal meeting to commemorate the birth-day of the Senior, C. L. Richards, Esq., or "Charley," as he is better known to the merchants. Approving of the fine flavor of the "Rosy," and the sentiments offered, we wish him, in addition, many happy returns of his natal day, and a successful business career in the new coral "Richards' Block."

Dashaway Association.

The meeting of this Society, to which we called attention last week, was numerously attended, and the audience listened with much attention and apparent gratification to the address delivered by H. Sea, Esq., which was by turns grave and facetious, in that gentleman's well-known style. The rooms of the vestry of the Bethel are to be put in repair and have been leased to this Association for their meetings. The next lecture will probably be delivered by the Rev. E. G. Beckwith, or Mr. G. B. C. Ingraham, of which notice will be given. At the last meeting Mr. N. L. Ingols was elected Vice-President *vice* Mr. A. J. McDuffee.

Dogs, Beware!

During Wednesday and Thursday nights past, the dogs of Honolulu have been pursued by an invisible foe and slain by the hundreds. On Thursday morning some seventy-eight were carted down to the beach, where they were preserved under ground amidst the tears and lamentations of their surviving friends. On Friday morning some hundred more were disposed of in the same mysterious manner,

We have no objections to seeing the curs killed off, but such indiscriminate slaughter without the least previous warning is not exactly to do as one would wish to be done by.

New Firm.

On Thursday next, Sept. 1, a new mercantile firm, in the general shipping and commission business, will start into existence here in Honolulu, viz: "Fred. L. Hanks & Co." The firm is composed of Fred. L. Hanks, formerly of the firm of R. Coady & Co., and of E. P. Adams, both young and enterprising men and favorably known, for many years, to the business community of this and other places.

☞ The next mail from the East is daily looked for by the *E. P. Willets* or the *Astoria* from San Francisco.

The "Orestes" once more—One of the Crew Drowned—The Captain arrested and committed for trial at the next Session of the Supreme Court.

On Tuesday morning last Capt. Thos. Mason, Master of the British Bark *Orestes*, was brought before the Honolulu Police Court upon the charge of having murdered one of the crew of said bark, named Joseph Watson, on Sunday afternoon last, while sailing in a boat outside of the harbor. It seems by the depositions made that the captain entered into a conversation with Watson, which provoked an altercation and afterward struck him with the tiller of the boat, for alleged insolence, whereupon Watson jumped for the boom of the boat-sail but fell short and was drowned. The case appearing sufficiently grave, Judge Davis committed the captain to be tried at the ensuing October term of the Supreme Court. Since then the counsels for the accused made application to the Chief Justice that the prisoner be admitted to bail and that a special session of the Supreme Court be held, in advance of the regular term, to try his case. The first of which motions was negatived, but the Court granted the second by fixing the 16th of September next as the day for trying the case at a special session.

The body of the drowned man has not yet been recovered.

The *Orestes* is now discharging her lumber to enable her to be repaired. Had this been done a month ago, there would have been no trouble with the crew and, perhaps, no loss of human life.

Again we must reluctantly call the attention of our cotemporary to the almost criminal indiscretion and hurry with which it prejudges a case still in the hands of the Court and ordered to a jury for their trial and verdict.

Very Late!!!

The latest dates received at the *Advertiser* office, viz:—Panama, June 15; New York, July 8; London June 30; Paris, June 28; Hongkong, May 14; and Melbourne, May 16. We, as well as the public generally, have later dates from those places by 30, 6, 2, 4, 21 and 12 days, respectively. No wonder the *Advertiser* raves so much about terrapins.

☞ We notice among our exchanges a new journal issued in San Francisco, in the French language, and called *Le Mineur*. It is edited by Dr. Frick, formerly chancellor of the French Commission at these islands, and for eight years a resident of Honolulu. Its typographical appearance is faultless and is a credit to the art. We regret that we cannot speak in equally favorable terms of its editorial contents. Setting aside news items, articles connected with subjects of which the title indicates the nature, and the contributed *feuilletons*, which are creditably prepared and well arranged, there is an under current of editorial articles loaded with a personality and a virulence of which we had no previous conception, and of which the sole object seems to be to satisfy a morbid desire of vengeance for alleged personal injuries, of which the general public knows nothing and would not be competent to judge, if conversant. In the prospectus of the said journal it held out the promise of entertaining its readers with sketches of Hawaiian life and characters; alas for the performance! If the article in its second number, of June 12, headed "*Un Prince Hawaiien vu de loin*" is an indication of what is to come, we think it has widely overshot its mark in vampyre-like fastening its tooth of detraction on an unconscious and innocent babe, and stigmatizing the benefactors of its editor with names of opprobrium and infamy, in terms so redolent of slang, as to suppose its readers to have sprung from the veriest dregs of society.

We would not willingly have said this much; but we felt it a duty to ourselves and to our community to set up this editorial "*cavete*" against a public journal so ignorant of its own limits, so regardless of common propriety.

☞ We refer our readers to the editorial correspondence in to-day's paper. It is not often that men and landscapes on Maui are described at all, and never has it been done in a finer, truer style than by our correspondent. Such a description will go far to atone for long years of neglect, and perhaps moderate the pride of our metropolitans who so often are apt to look upon Maui as an overgrown potato field and its people as provincials.

CORRESPONDENCE.

VIEWS OF MAUI.

Wailuku.

Their Majesties, the Prince of Hawaii and the ladies and gentlemen accompanying them, have been staying in this part of Maui since Wednesday, the 10th of August, inst. The climate is beautiful, and, to use the current language of the day, all is serene. There is one characteristic of this part of Wailuku where we are staying, which distinguishes it from too many other portions of the islands, namely, the numerous watercourses, fed by the stream, which after following its serpentine course through the valley, afford a rare opportunity for irrigation. The number of *kalo*-patches now dry, yet still well defined, show how much of the Hawaiian staff of life was once on a time produced here. It is said that a considerable area of land was formerly covered with sugar cane, which thrived well, and early came to maturity. Some people hold that this would be a promising site for the erection of a mill to grind, on shares, the cane of all who should grow the same. The waterpower is not wanting, and the port of Kahului is close by, affording a good opportunity for shipping the produce to a market. The knowing ones say that a really good and therefore costly mill would not pay, however, unless the quantity of cane to be ground yearly amounted to the average crop of, say, two hundred acres. The interest on the money, the cost of labor and the superintendent's salary, would tell up to a high figure. But it does not seem impracticable for two or three of those who own a few acres each of good cane land, to establish a small mill of their own, of such a description, for instance, as the one lately purchased by Mr. C. Titcomb of Hanalei. The expense divided amongst them would fall lightly upon each, and from such a beginning, if successful, the happiest result might be expected, for this people is imitative and gregarious, and a joint-stock mill, owned by the growers themselves, might in three or four years be the result of such an experiment.

Mr. Bailey and Mr. Haverkost, are both of them essaying what can be done in the matter of raising cotton, and both seem to be sufficiently sanguine that cotton can be raised in certain localities, which is a fact not to be disputed, for it has been raised and manufactured into cloth, and what has been done, may, under similar circumstances, be done again. But the cost of production, the market-value, the liability to blight, etc., etc., are questions yet to be decided by a larger experience than any yet obtained. It is greatly to be hoped, however, that this tributary to the national flow of wealth may prove itself to have sprung from a permanent source.

The people here (and where not?) are very much given to riding on horseback; the females in particular have admirable seats, and, to misapply Macbeth's language, appear to "dare all that may become a man," whilst in the saddle. Every Saturday afternoon they have races at Waihee, and great is the excitement. Last week they improved in the usual order of things, that is to say straight races, by marking out by men stationed on horseback a circular course upon the large plains, the sand hills above making very convenient, though inartificial, stands. It was a "scrub" race, every body so disposed contributing a mite towards a purse for the winner. Some twelve or fifteen horses started, and wonderful to say, they all came in sooner or later; the running was very good, and the race, take it altogether, one of the prettiest I have ever seen upon these islands. The advantage is immense of seeing the start and the finish and of being able to keep your eyes on the horses throughout the whole tussle. It is a pity that when the amateurs of Honolulu do get up a race they could not make use of a similar course, but this they could not do without traveling a considerable distance from town and making a real holiday of the occasion.

The Rev. Mr. Alexander, the Protestant pastor of Wailuku, is absent on a trip to the United States, and his pulpit is "supplied," sometimes by the Rev. Mr. Pogue, sometimes by the Rev. Mr. Aholo, and sometimes, I believe, by Mr. Bailey. We heard a very sensible sermon by Mr. Aholo; it was on wars and the rumors of wars; very ingenious but a little too long. The Roman Catholic Church is said to be very well attended. I was prevented yesterday from going there, as I had intended, but those who went say it was crowded. There is a Mormon church besides, which is said to collect a fair sprinkling of those who are dupes to a humbug worthy of the fertile brains of Barnum himself. To one or other of these several churches a very large proportion of the population goes religiously every Sunday, whatever their week-day practices may be.

Makawao.

On Monday, the 15th instant, their Majesties with a large following, the party that arrived from Lahaina having been greatly augmented by members of the resident community, proceeded to that pleasant place called Makawao, removed from Wailuku some 12 or 15 miles. This is the land of sugar and of wheat, and it is cheering to observe the many signs of industry that here meet the eye. Here, too, the climate is very delightful; cooler, on account of elevation, than Wailuku, it is also more exposed to the trade-wind, and is of course more bracing. Here are three sugar plantations, two in full operation. Their owners are hospitable to a degree, and left no stone unturned to make their Majesties' visit agreeable. The party first rested and took refreshment at Mr. Torbert's house, but in view of Mrs. Torbert's then state of health declined to accept of the pressing invitation given to take up quarters there. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer received the King and the Queen with her lady companions, while Mr. Miner threw wide his doors to the great body of the visitors. Nothing could exceed the demonstrations of kindness manifested in both establishments, or the anxiety evinced to forestall every wish of the travelers. Captain Hobron and his lady on their part gave an evening party at which their Majesties were present. It was numerously attended and went off with great spirit, not the less so that the ladies, in the absence of professional performers, by turn danced and furnished the music for others to dance by. There was something primitive in their arrangement which accorded well with the situation of the house, begirt with fields in cane, and fields in stubble, and little homesteads where the wheat is stacked, and all under the light of a nearly full moon.

This year's yield of wheat is much larger than that of last year, but the growers complain of wheat growing as being a poor business and hardly remunerative at all, as it is conducted by some of them. They have to go on "tick" for implements and what not; sometimes, perhaps generally, in consequence of the ravages of the cut-worm, they have to sow twice at least, and the seed-corn costs something, even if the labor is all supplied by the family. When they get in hand the balance coming to them from their crops it looks very small and disappointment very often ensues. Some who planted this year say they shall not do so again. A very few cents more per bushel would turn the balance of their feelings, and it is greatly to be hoped that the Honolulu Flour Company as a result of its new arrangements for converting the grain into flour, and the flour into hard bread, will be able to afford to buy on terms more encouraging to the producer. Should this not be the case, it does not seem improbable that wheat growing may ere long take its place amongst those other pursuits of industry which have been glowingly recommended, hopefully essayed and then relinquished for sufficient reasons.

Of sugar it boots not to speak. The general reader is pretty well acquainted with the state of the plantations up here, for they are frequently noticed in print. Suffice it to say that as far as can be prophesied from the present indications observable, sugar will for a long time be, so far as the manufacturers are concerned, the most reliable vegetable staple of the islands. One may see money in it where the undertaking is judiciously commenced, as to site, etc., and conducted by persons of experience not unable to adapt their minds to conditions other than those with which they were familiar elsewhere.

The new sugar plantation (I said there were three) established by a joint-stock company (limited, I believe) has already broken ground in Haiku, a tract of land lying low towards the beach and bounded on one side by the little Bay of Maliko and on the other by a ravine; with five hundred acres, however, on the other side of the latter—bounded I know not how—about 2,000 acres in all. As a commencement they have planted 25 acres of cane from which to plant out. This place is said to be well adapted for the purposes to which it is devoted. The plantation of the late Mr. McLean and Mr. Miner, almost joined on to it above, and good cane was produced there, although for reasons not necessary to mention, that field of labor was abandoned. I understand that one of the Messieurs Beckwith, intended to take charge of the Haiku estate, is now getting his rudiments in the Southern States of the American Union, amongst the numerous plantations there in operation, and that being a man of considerable intelligence, he is likely to prepare himself so far as to make his success in a new vocation a matter of strong probability. It is said that the proprietors intend to avail themselves of the newest inventions of a mechanical nature, and that they already enjoy a kind of speculative success in their undertaking.

To pass from the practical to the picturesque, I cannot let go by this opportunity of recommending to all lovers of the beautiful the panorama to be witnessed from the hill on Mr. Miner's estate, whence we looked down into Haiku aforesaid. The scenery about Mr. Miner's house reminds those whose memory serves them, of an English gentleman's park; behind is the woodland, before the green-sward of an emerald green, spotted with clumps of trees, the surface swelling into hills and sinking into dells; only the deer are wanting to transport one at one leap to the distance of ten thousand miles. The hill alluded to lies seaward of the house, looking down on it on one side, and upon Haiku and the sea on the other. Taking a bird's-eye view of the woodland the contrast of colors in the foliage of the tree-tops, strikes the eye. Immediately underneath is grassland dotted with cattle, some of which are dotted in their turn. Off in the distance are seen the tops of two or three chimneys breathing forth smoke in elongated horizontal streaks, assuring us that industry and beauty are here united. In one direction the landscape is bounded by the unwrinkled face of the ever-young Pacific, in the contrary direction rises the mountain called *Haleakala*. These are before and behind you as you stand upon the hill. On either side stretches a verdant country intersected with little chasms and valleys, running in which meandering streams find their way to the sea. It is a place to be visited by those who love the contrast of light and shade, and of a dead level to seaward from which the eye turns backward with surprise to the steep mountain side rising to the height of twice five thousand feet.

Haleakala.

On Wednesday the 17th inst., their Majesties' party, having been joined by several of the lady and gentlemen residents of Makawao and other places, made the ascent of Haleakala. Leaving Makawao, the first portion of the road lies through a pleasant enough country, broken by ravines and shaded by trees. After a while we reached the rocky ground where the ascent is tedious and one horse has to follow another along a devious road, rough and closely lined on each side by shrubs that tore the skirts of the ladies' riding habits into shreds. About four and a half or five hours' riding brought us to the summit—a mere side-crust as it were—and looking down we beheld below us the largest crater in the known world. It is about nine miles in diameter and about two thousand feet in depth. There are some fifteen or so extinct craters studded about its base, one, which looks insignificant enough, is said to be larger than Punch-Bowl Hill. There are besides several ridges, not wonderful to look at from above, but hard of ascent to those who have essayed the enterprise. At one point the descent is easy enough, and a road used to be traveled through the crater by which the district of Hana was reached by a comparatively short if not smooth path. At another place it is not difficult to ride down on horseback over a kind of sandy slope. Our party consisted of rather more than a hundred persons, and although the elevation is 4,000 feet less than that of Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea on Hawaii, several of the party found themselves subject to the feelings proper to a great elevation, although some of the same persons had experienced nothing of the kind when they had reached the very top of one or other of the mountains just mentioned. On our first arrival the crater was partially filled with clouds, but early next morning, before sunrise, it afforded a splendid view, although the island of Maui rested and sunk down, as it were, in a vast mattress of fleecy clouds, which formed the horizon all around. To see the sun's rays gilding and pinking the under surface of these vaporous masses, which hung down in points like those seen depending from the roof of a vast subterranean cave, whilst the process of condensation proceeded, forbidding all permanency of shape—this was a sight to be seen, the light coming from below.

We had a merry time of it on the mountain, for we were well prepared against the advances of hunger and thirst and cold. The ladies had a tent, but the rest of us slept in the open air, or rather we would have slept if singing and laughter had not prevented such a hum-drum waste of one night out of a life-time. There is something exhilarating in the light air, and to have one's fingers and toes pinched by the frost; and to be called to crowd round one of the camp fires is a treat, at least to those who were not born to the almost monotonous sequence of tropical seasons. C. G. H.

[*To be continued.*]

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POLYNESIAN.

English Schools for Hawaiians.

The subject of English schools for Hawaiian youth was at one time considered of great importance, and attracted no small degree of attention. Provision was made by law for the establishment and maintenance of one such school in every election district throughout the Islands, and I believe the plan was thoroughly carried out. Such was the case here on Hawaii. In 1855–6, we had seven or eight schools, kept by missionaries and others, in which the English language was taught, and there was a large attendance of native youth. The law provided that whenever the sum of four hundred dollars had been subscribed in any one district for the support of an English school, the government should contribute four hundred more, and thus a decent salary was provided for a teacher of moderate aspirations. So far as my experience goes, the natives were not backward, but were ready to "kokua" according to their ability. Well, I for one rejoiced in believing that a systematic plan had been inducted, and that the rising generation of Hawaiians were to learn to speak, read and write English, and thus a sure guarantee be provided against their extinction. I fondly dreamed that the rich treasures of literature, science and art were to be thrown open to a nation of starved and stunted intellects, and that the enlargement of ideas inseparable from a knowledge of the language of progress—as the English may with propriety be called—would infuse new vigor into a decaying race, and thus a remnant be saved to perpetuate, under our liberal institutions, the Hawaiian nation. 'Twas the baseless fabric of a dream.

To-day, I do not know of a single English school for Hawaiian youth on this island. There may be one somewhere; but the natives, of whom I have inquired pretty extensively, say there are none. Why is this? Where does the fault lie? In the non-ability of the young Hawaiians to acquire English? Any body who has lived in Honolulu knows better than that. Does the fault lie with the Board of Education, in devoting *all* its attention to keeping up the present school system, with its many glaring evils and its questionable benefits? The New Code provides, Section 741—"It shall be the duty of the President of the Board of Education to use his best endeavor to impress upon the minds of native parents and guardians, the importance of a knowledge of the English language to their children, and to induce them to provide for them, as soon as possible, the means of acquiring it, by contributing, according to their ability, the means of supporting English schools of good character among them." That the natives are impressed with the importance of a knowledge of the English language is evident enough, but they require to be incited to action. Were schools started here, and *continued*, there would be no lack of scholars; but under the present system of "masterly inactivity," the generation of Hawaiians are growing up not one whit further advanced than their semi-civilized fathers and mothers, unless it be in vice and the science of living without work. Is this so on Oahu, or the other islands? Or is it merely a part of the policy heretofore pursued by those at the head of affairs, of bestowing little or no consideration on Hawaii, which, though the most remote, is the most important island of the group. Let the light of your editorial inspection shine upon this subject.

Yours, &c., HAWAII.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POLYNESIAN.

SIR:—It seems to me, that the *Polynesian* and *Advertiser*, like a couple of enraged onces, (ounces) are lashing each other with their tails (taels) at a great rate. You find fault with the *Advertiser* because its special calculation made 3,700 taels equal to 5,500 ounces. In this, I think, you were hasty; for, if you reflect a moment, you must admit that the result was not so far from the truth as might have been expected of mere guess work; in fact, it was much nearer than most persons equally unacquainted with the subject would have come; besides, as soon as you informed him that a tael was equal to 1 1-3 ounce, he was able, with the assistance of his devil, to correct his former error. His familiarity with the faction will not surprise you, when you recollect that it was *vulgar*.

Now, as regards your own error, I think that in giving 4,033 1-3 instead of 4,933 1-3 ounces, you were much nearer correct than might at first be supposed; in fact you had only neglected a tael (tail) to your nine. This must have been an oversight, but I suppose typographical errors will occur in all papers.

I will now bring my remarks to a close, hoping that you will do the same with this arithmetical dispute and at once an ounce (announce) the tail of this tale of taels. Yours truly,

OBSERVER.

Honolulu, Aug. 25, 1859.

☞ A talking match lately came off at N. Orleans for five dollars aside. It continued according to the *Advertiser*, for thirty hours the rivals being a South Carolinian and a Virginian. The bystanders and judges were talked to sleep, and when they awoke in the morning they found the Virginian dead, and the South Carolinian whispering in his ear.

☞ Punch truly says that in the shadow of a small waist may be seen a large doctor's bill and the outside of a coffin.